

ARANEA VENATORIA.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Pedes octo.

Oculi octo.

Os unguibus seu retinaculis duobus.

Palpi duo articulati ; masculis genitalibus capitati.

Anus papillis textoriis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1030.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

ARANEA CASTANEA, thorace glabro, abdomine pubescente fusco.

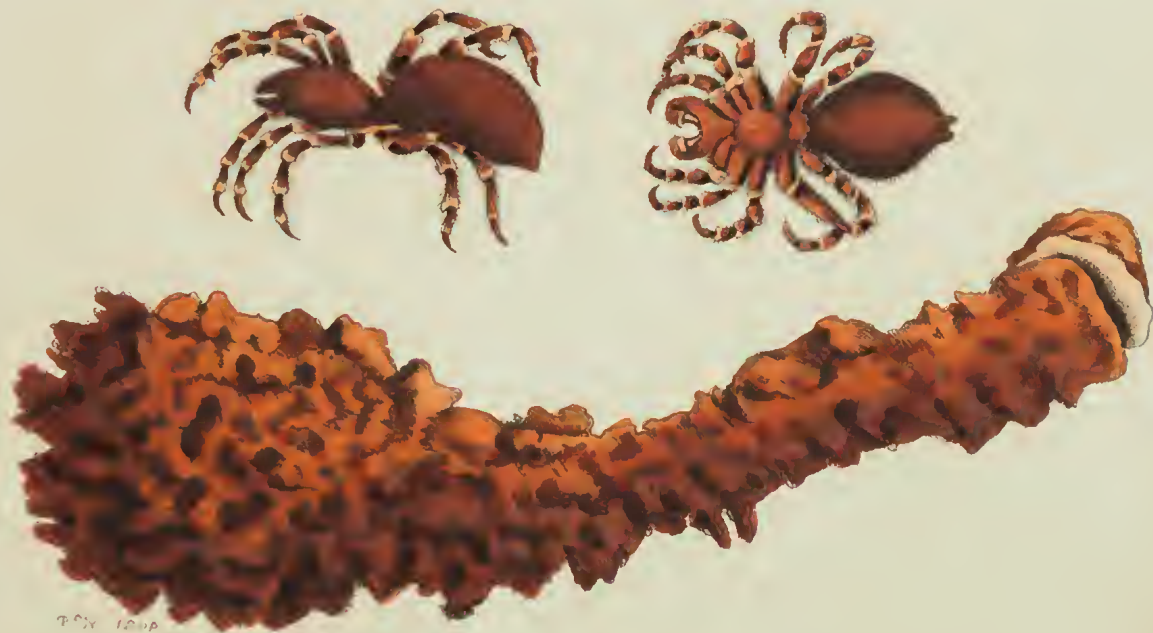
ARANEA VENATORIA. A. thorace orbiculato glabro atro, abdomine ovato pubescente fusco.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 2960.

Fabr. sp. ins. 1. p. 546.

Jamaicam insulasque alias Americanas incolit Aranea venatoria, in locis siccis et arenosis nidum struens cylindraceum, quinque vel sex uncias longum, et operculo seu valvula instructum, quæ ad libitum resilit et clauditur. In hoc latibulo prædæ insidiatur, insectis nempe prope repentibus aut volitantibus, quæ saltu subito arrepta et in nidum subducta, clauso operculo, devorat. Ostenditur in tabula animalis vera magnitudo ; nidus autem magnitudine diminuta conspicitur.

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THE
AMERICAN TARANTULA.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Legs eight.

Eyes eight.

Mouth furnished with two hooks or holders.

Palpi or *Feelers* two, the tips of which (in the males) distinguish the sex.

Abdomen terminated by papillæ or teats thro' which the insect draws its thread.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

CHESNUT SPIDER, with smooth thorax, and brown pubescent body.

BLACK TARANTULA. *Brown's Jamaica.*

AMERICAN TARANTULA.

The *Aranea venatoria* inhabits Jamaica, and other American islands: it constructs in dry and sandy situations a cylindrical nest of five or six inches in length, furnished with an elastic closing valve. In this nest the animal waits the arrival of its prey, viz. any insect flying or creeping near; and suddenly rushing out, secures its victim, which it drags into the nest, and devours at leisure, the valve immediately closing behind it. In the annexed plate the spider itself is represented in its natural size; the nest of half its real dimensions.